

ABOUT HEALING WOODS

Our Stories: Healing Woods

60 min.; 7-12; Maine Studies, Social Studies; Produced by: MPBN (1998)

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This video is one part of a four-part television series that documents a rural view of culture, community and family in the four corners of Maine. *Healing Woods* takes place at Indian Township, one of the two Passamaquoddy Reservations in Washington County, Maine.

FOR TEACHERS

Many students only learn about Native Americans in the past tense: they seek answers to questions like “how did they live,” “what did they eat,” “what clothes did they wear,” and “what did they trade long ago?” Teaching and learning about Native people only in the past tense reinforces two rival stereotypes: that Native people are either extinct, or live today like they did in the past.

Why *Healing Woods* is Important

Watching *Healing Woods* will give your students an important opportunity to learn about and appreciate Passamaquoddy life and people today. This documentary takes you to the Indian Township Passamaquoddy Reservation to meet some Passamaquoddy people from the community. Through their stories, you will learn about family life, jobs, traditions, culture, and the many ways Passamaquoddy people make use of their forests and waterways today. *Healing Woods* reflects and reinforces many of the key concepts taught in the kit and will make the lessons come alive for your students.

How to Use *Healing Woods*

The video runs about an hour. We suggest you show this video in shorter segments, staggered throughout the course of the kit. For your convenience, we have included paragraph descriptions and the start and finish times of each 15-20 minute segment.

Content for Mature Audiences

Segment 3, *Back At Camp*, is recommended for mature audiences in grade 7 or above. This segment contains mature subject matter about alcohol addiction, domestic abuse and depression. To skip this segment, simply fast forward to Segment 4.

Segment 1

Start: 00:00

End: 15:25

From Trees to Baskets: Basketmaking and Families Today

You will see the process of traditional basketmaking from harvesting an ash tree to weaving a basket. You will also learn about the role of women in Passamaquoddy culture and how adoption has shaped one family.

Segment 2
Start: 15:25
End: 37:15

In the Forest Today: Hunting, Healing and Harvesting

You'll learn about many ways Passamaquoddy people interact with the forest today—through hunting, important forest management practices and gathering herbs and roots for traditional medicine. You'll also learn of one man's struggle with stereotyping and racism.

Ends 31:00

At Camp

Passamaquoddy men, young and old, gather at hunting camp and talk honestly about alcohol abuse, stereotyping and anti-Indian prejudice in neighboring communities.

Ends 35:25

School Days at Indian Township

You'll listen to school children practice their Passamaquoddy language lessons, as well as a traditional game, dancing and drumming.

Ends 37:15

Segment 3
Starts 37:15
Ends 46:25

This segment is recommended for mature audiences in grades 7 and above. Please preview this segment before screening for your students.

Back At Camp

Passamaquoddy men, young and old, discuss honestly their feelings on fatherhood, growing up without good role models, alcohol addiction, depression and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse.

Ends: 45:08

Catholic Church Service at St. Ann's Church, Indian Township

Ends: 46:25

Segment 4
Starts: 46:25
Ends: 54:52

On the Water and On the Shore

From a motorized canoe, an experienced trapper catches muskrats, talks about life before the land claims settlement and speaks to the importance of tradition. Later, a family enjoying a barbeque on the shore reflects on the importance of maintaining Passamaquoddy cultural traditions.